

Representatives shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the hour of 1 o'clock in the afternoon on the 5th day of January, 2001, and the President of the Senate shall be their presiding officer. Two tellers shall be previously appointed on the part of the Senate and two on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter A; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from the said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

REESTABLISHMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 150, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 150) relating to the reestablishment of representative government in Afghanistan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 150) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 150

Whereas Afghanistan has existed as a sovereign nation since 1747, maintaining its independence, neutrality, and dignity;

Whereas Afghanistan had maintained its own decisionmaking through a traditional process called a "Loya Jirgah", or Grand Assembly, by selecting, respecting, and following the decisions of their leaders;

Whereas recently warlords, factional leaders, and foreign regimes have laid siege to

Afghanistan, leaving the landscape littered with landmines, making the most fundamental activities dangerous;

Whereas in recent years, and especially since the Taliban came to power in 1996, Afghanistan has become a haven for terrorist activity, has produced most of the world's opium supply, and has become infamous for its human rights abuses, particularly abuses against women and children;

Whereas the former King of Afghanistan, Mohammed Zahir Shah, ruled the country peacefully for 40 years, and after years in exile retains his popularity and support; and

Whereas former King Mohammed Zahir Shah plans to convene an emergency "Loya Jirgah" to reestablish a stable government, with no desire to regain power or reestablish a monarchy, and the Department of State supports such ongoing efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the United States—

(1) supports the democratic efforts that respect the human and political rights of all ethnic and religious groups in Afghanistan, including the effort to establish a "Loya Jirgah" process that would lead to the people of Afghanistan determining their own destiny through a democratic process and free and fair elections; and

(2) supports the continuing efforts of former King Mohammed Zahir Shah and other responsible parties searching for peace to convene a Loya Jirgah—

(A) to reestablish a representative government in Afghanistan that respects the rights of all ethnic groups, including the right to govern their own affairs through inclusive institution building and a democratic process;

(B) to bring freedom, peace, and stability to Afghanistan; and

(C) to end terrorist activities, illicit drug production, and human rights abuses in Afghanistan.

SMALL WATERSHED REHABILITATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 798, S. 1762.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1762) to amend the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide cost share assistance for the rehabilitation of structural measures constructed as part of water resource projects previously funded by the Secretary under such Act or related laws.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 4339

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Senator HARKIN has an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH], for Mr. HARKIN, proposes an amendment numbered 4339.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 2, line 5, strike "1999" and insert "2000".

On page 8, lines 6 and 7, strike "no benefit-cost" and all that follows through "be required" and insert "a benefit-cost ratio greater than 1 shall not be required".

On page 8, line 20, after the period, insert the following: "In establishing a system of approving rehabilitation requests, the Secretary shall give requests made by eligible local organizations for decommissioning as the form of rehabilitation the same priority as requests made by eligible local organizations for other forms of rehabilitation."

On page 8, strike lines 21 through 25 and insert the following:

"(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to provide financial and technical assistance under this section—

"(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;

"(2) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2002;

"(3) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;

"(4) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

"(5) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

On page 9, line 3, strike "2000 and 2001" and insert "2001 and 2002".

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4339) was agreed to.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1762), as amended, was read the third time and passed as follows:

S. 1762

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Watershed Rehabilitation Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. REHABILITATION OF WATER RESOURCE STRUCTURAL MEASURES CONSTRUCTED UNDER CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS.

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 14. REHABILITATION OF STRUCTURAL MEASURES NEAR, AT, OR PAST THEIR EVALUATED LIFE EXPECTANCY.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

"(1) REHABILITATION.—The term 'rehabilitation', with respect to a structural measure constructed as part of a covered water resource project, means the completion of all work necessary to extend the service life of the structural measure and meet applicable safety and performance standards. This may include (A) protecting the integrity of the structural measure, or prolonging the useful life of the structural measure, beyond the original evaluated life expectancy, (B) correcting damage to the structural measure

from a catastrophic event, (C) correcting the deterioration of structural components that are deteriorating at an abnormal rate, (D) upgrading the structural measure to meet changed land use conditions in the watershed served by the structural measure or changed safety criteria applicable to the structural measure, or (E) decommissioning the structural measure, including removal or breaching.

“(2) COVERED WATER RESOURCE PROJECT.—The term ‘covered water resource project’ means a work of improvement carried out under any of the following:

“(A) This Act.

“(B) Section 13 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (Public Law 78-534; 58 Stat. 905).

“(C) The pilot watershed program authorized under the heading ‘FLOOD PREVENTION’ of the Department of Agriculture Appropriation Act, 1954 (Public Law 156; 67 Stat. 214).

“(D) Subtitle H of title XV of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3451 et seq.; commonly known as the Resource Conservation and Development Program).

“(3) ELIGIBLE LOCAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘eligible local organization’ means a local organization or appropriate State agency responsible for the operation and maintenance of structural measures constructed as part of a covered water resource project.

“(4) STRUCTURAL MEASURE.—The term ‘structural measure’ means a physical improvement that impounds water, commonly known as a dam, which was constructed as part of a covered water resource project.

“(b) COST SHARE ASSISTANCE FOR REHABILITATION.—

“(1) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may provide financial assistance to an eligible local organization to cover a portion of the total costs incurred for the rehabilitation of structural measures originally constructed as part of a covered water resource project. The total costs of rehabilitation include the costs associated with all components of the rehabilitation project, including acquisition of land, easements, and rights-of-ways, rehabilitation project administration, the provision of technical assistance, contracting, and construction costs, except that the local organization shall be responsible for securing all land, easements, or rights-of-ways necessary for the project.

“(2) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE; LIMITATIONS.—The amount of Federal funds that may be made available under this subsection to an eligible local organization for construction of a particular rehabilitation project shall be equal to 65 percent of the total rehabilitation costs, but not to exceed 100 percent of actual construction costs incurred in the rehabilitation. However, the local organization shall be responsible for the costs of water, mineral, and other resource rights and all Federal, State, and local permits.

“(3) RELATION TO LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS.—As a condition on entering into an agreement to provide financial assistance under this subsection, the Secretary, working in concert with the eligible local organization, may require that proper zoning or other developmental regulations are in place in the watershed in which the structural measures to be rehabilitated under the agreement are located so that—

“(A) the completed rehabilitation project is not quickly rendered inadequate by additional development; and

“(B) society can realize the full benefits of the rehabilitation investment.

“(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR WATERSHED PROJECT REHABILITATION.—The Secretary, acting through the Natural Re-

sources Conservation Service, may provide technical assistance in planning, designing, and implementing rehabilitation projects should an eligible local organization request such assistance. Such assistance may consist of specialists in such fields as engineering, geology, soils, agronomy, biology, hydraulics, hydrology, economics, water quality, and contract administration.

“(d) PROHIBITED USE.—

“(1) PERFORMANCE OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—Rehabilitation assistance provided under this section may not be used to perform operation and maintenance activities specified in the agreement for the covered water resource project entered into between the Secretary and the eligible local organization responsible for the works of improvement. Such operation and maintenance activities shall remain the responsibility of the local organization, as provided in the project work plan.

“(2) RENEGOTIATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), as part of the provision of financial assistance under subsection (b), the Secretary may renegotiate the original agreement for the covered water resource project entered into between the Secretary and the eligible local organization regarding responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the project when the rehabilitation is finished.

“(e) APPLICATION FOR REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE.—An eligible local organization may apply to the Secretary for technical and financial assistance under this section if the application has also been submitted to and approved by the State agency having supervisory responsibility over the covered water resource project at issue or, if there is no State agency having such responsibility, by the Governor of the State. The Secretary shall request the State dam safety officer (or equivalent State official) to be involved in the application process if State permits or approvals are required. The rehabilitation of structural measures shall meet standards established by the Secretary and address other dam safety issues. At the request of the eligible local organization, personnel of the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture may assist in preparing applications for assistance.

“(f) JUSTIFICATION FOR REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE.—In order to qualify for technical or financial assistance under this authority, the Secretary shall require the rehabilitation project to be performed in the most cost-effective manner that accomplishes the rehabilitation objective. Since the requirements for accomplishing the rehabilitation are generally for public health and safety reasons, in many instances being mandated by other State or Federal laws, a benefit-cost ratio greater than 1 shall not be required. The benefits of and the requirements for the rehabilitation project shall be documented to ensure the wise and responsible use of Federal funds.

“(g) RANKING OF REQUESTS FOR REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall establish such system of approving rehabilitation requests, recognizing that such requests will be received throughout the fiscal year and subject to the availability of funds to carry out this section, as is necessary for proper administration by the Department of Agriculture and equitable for all eligible local organizations. The approval process shall be in writing, and made known to all eligible local organizations and appropriate State agencies. In establishing a system of approving rehabilitation requests, the Secretary shall give requests made by eligible

local organizations for decommissioning as the form of rehabilitation the same priority as requests made by eligible local organizations for other forms of rehabilitation.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to provide financial and technical assistance under this section—

“(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;

“(2) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2002;

“(3) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;

“(4) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

“(5) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

“(i) ASSESSMENT OF REHABILITATION NEEDS.—Of the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection (h) for fiscal years 2001 and 2002, \$5,000,000 shall be used by the Secretary, in concert with the responsible State agencies, to conduct an assessment of the rehabilitation needs of covered water resource projects in all States in which such projects are located.

“(j) RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTS.—

“(1) SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall maintain a data base to track the benefits derived from rehabilitation projects supported under this section and the expenditures made under this section. On the basis of such data and the reports submitted under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall prepare and submit to Congress an annual report providing the status of activities conducted under this section.

“(2) GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of a specific rehabilitation project for which assistance is provided under this section, the eligible local organization that received the assistance shall make a report to the Secretary giving the status of any rehabilitation effort undertaken using financial assistance provided under this section.”.

UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House to accompany H.R. 4788.

There being no objection, the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4788) entitled “An Act to amend the United States Grain Standards Act to extend the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to collect fees to cover the cost of services performed under that Act, extend the authorization of appropriations for that Act, and improve the administration of that Act, to reenact the United States Warehouse Act to require the licensing and inspection of warehouses used to store agricultural products and provide for the issuance of receipts, including electronic receipts, for agricultural products stored or handled in licensed warehouses, and for other purposes”, with the following House amendment to Senate amendment:

At the end of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, add the following new sections:

SEC. 311. COTTON FUTURES.

Subsection (d)(2) of the United States Cotton Futures Act (7 U.S.C. 15b(d)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “A person complying with the preceding sentence shall not be liable for any loss or damage arising or resulting from such compliance.”.